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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Ninety-sixth session
Geneva, 5–9 May 2014
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda
Proposals for amendments to Annexes A and B of ADR:
Miscellaneous proposals

Marking of tank-vehicles transporting fuels

Transmitted by the Government of France[1]

Summary

Executive summary: The purpose of the present document is to add to 5.3.2.1.3 UN No. 3475, ETHANOL AND PETROL MIXTURE, with more than 10% ethanol.

Decision to be taken: Amend 5.3.2.1.3.

Related documents: Informal document INF.13 (IRU) from the eighty-fourth session and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/197, paragraph 21, informal document INF.8 (Finland) from the eighty-ninth session and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/208, paragraph 20.

[1] The present document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of the terms of reference of the Working Party, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190/Add.1, which provides a mandate to "develop and update the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)".

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Introduction

1. ADR 5.3.2.1.3 provides for the simplification of the marking of tank-vehicles transporting the fuels listed therein.

2. Since 2009 and the inclusion in ADR of UN No. 3475, ETHANOL AND PETROL MIXTURE, with more than 10% ethanol, companies transporting this fuel with other fuels have been obliged to do so in conformity with 5.3.2.1.2, which requires that orange-coloured plates bearing the hazard identification and UN numbers be clearly displayed on the side of each tank, and therefore on each compartment. It should be noted that the transport of ethanol and petrol mixtures, such as the 85% ethanol mixture known as E85, is increasing significantly.

3. Two discussions on whether to add UN No. 3475 to the list of fuels in 5.3.2.1.3 have already been held within the Working Party: one in May 2008, when the new UN No. 3475 was introduced in ADR, based on an IRU proposal (informal document INF.13), and the other in October 2010, based on a proposal from Finland (informal document INF.8).

4. In those instances, the Working Party considered that "emergency interventions and firefighting techniques are different for UN No. 3475 ethanol and gasoline mixtures and for conventional fuels" and therefore did not adopt the proposals to extend the scope of the exemption provided under 5.3.2.1.3.

5. Apparently, the same extinguishing agents may be used with these different fuels and the type of intervention would remain the same for all substances. Therefore, we propose that 5.3.2.1.3 should be amended.

Proposal

6. Add UN No. 3475 to 5.3.2.1.3, as follows:

> "For tank-vehicles or transport units having one or more tanks carrying substances with UN Nos. 1202, 1203, 1223 or 3475, or aviation fuel classed under UN Nos. 1268 or 1863, but no other dangerous substance, the orange-coloured plates prescribed in 5.3.2.1.2 need not be affixed if the plates affixed to the front and rear in accordance with 5.3.2.1.1 bear the hazard identification number and the UN number prescribed for the most hazardous substance carried, i.e. the substance with the lowest flashpoint."